

## Proposed Bylaws changes should be passed

I encourage you to read the STMA Annual Report (p. 38-39) in this issue and really digest the information. You'll find that this association is healthy, the strategic plan is being carried out and goals are being met. Kim Heck, STMA CEO, has also written a great article detailing the proposed bylaws revisions. If approved by you, these governance changes will dramatically change board service.

With more than 200 members volunteering for committee work, it is time to allow more opportunities for members to participate on the Board of Directors. The Governance Task Group and the Bylaws Committee spent months crafting revisions. The Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the changes. Now it's your turn to determine if the changes are positive for STMA. Please look for your ballot to come this month and be sure to vote.

With these potential Bylaws revisions on the horizon, I want to recognize some folks instrumental in getting STMA to where we are today. Being on the STMA Board of Directors can be perceived as an overwhelming challenge for a new board member. In my first couple meetings I sat back and listened to the veterans talk about issues that weren't on my radar screen. It took me a while to even partially understand how the association functioned.

The Founders had a vision of what this association should represent and how it should serve. Each Board works hard to take one more step toward that vision. Developing goals, implementing change and managing the association is difficult and complex. Each Board member brings special interests and talents to the Board room. Spirited discussion takes place and compromises are made to push STMA forward. Each past and present Board member made contributions to get STMA another step closer to becoming a truly great association.

My second thanks go to Past Presidents. I saw great leadership in the Presidents I served under. Since I've been a member I have marveled at the ability of the sitting President to lead through challenges. In almost every case, when STMA was faced with a fork in the road, the leadership team led by the President chose a path that led to bright sunshine on the other side.

This association is not as great as it will be 20 years from now. These are very fortunate times to serve on the board. The list of Past Presidents is made up of truly great people who helped STMA become a model association with high values. Tremendous leaders make up our membership and many will work their way through leadership positions with STMA in years to come.

It's important for us to keep a proper historical perspective. Our goals today were visions of past Boards and Presidents. It's a privilege to take up the work of those before us. Thank you for seeing the vision, for building the road and for providing the tools for us to continue the work. It's an honor to serve this membership, this Board and this great legacy of past leaders.



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